

REMARKS

1. Allowed Claims

Applicants graciously acknowledge that the Examiner allowed claims 14-20 in the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2006. Applicants also graciously acknowledge that the Examiner stated that claims 4, 6, 8, and 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Claim Amendments

Subsequently, in the Advisory Action mailed July 19, 2006, the Examiner maintained the rejections of amended independent claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabin (U.S. Patent No. 6,603,464) in view of Ornato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,457,312) and Segawa et al. (Pub. No. 2004/0019879). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-13, in view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 7 in accordance with the indicated allowable subject matter in the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2006.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 2 and 4 and placed in the form it was in when claim 4 was previously objected to but indicated to contain allowable subject matter at the time of the May 8, 2006 Final Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 3, 5, and 6 depend upon claim 1 and should be allowable for similar reasons.

Additionally, independent claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 8 and placed in the form it was in when claim 8 was previously objected to but indicated to contain allowable subject matter at the time of the May 8, 2006 Final Office Action. Therefore,

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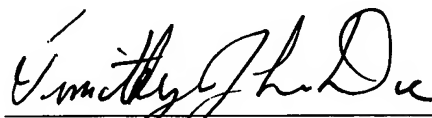
Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 9-13 depend upon claim 7 and should be allowable for similar reasons.

New independent claim 21 is previously objected to claim 6 and includes all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. New independent claim 22 is previously objected to claim 10 and includes all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21 and 22 are allowable.

SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (312) 321-4277.

Respectfully submitted,



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